

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original): A bib that comprises a front piece (2) which has at its lower end a collecting tray (3) and at its upper end a recess (4) for placement of the bib about the wearer's neck, wherein a springy, elastic free-bearing string (5), connected to the front piece in the region of one end of the edge of the recess (4), is adapted to extend to a fastener located on the upper part of the front piece (2) in the region of the other end of the recess (4), wherein the string comprises, at least in its free end portion, mutually sequential beads (51) that are joined together via waist portions (52), characterized in that the fastener includes a body (31) mounted on one major surface of the front piece (2); in that the body (31) includes a generally U-shaped notch (32) that extends generally parallel with the nearby end portion (56) of the free-bearing string; in that the notch (32) faces away from the front piece surface on which the body (31) is mounted; and in that the notch includes a springy, elastic restraining element (33, 34) that co-acts with the string such as to hold the string releasably in the notch.

Claim 2 (original): A bib according to Claim 1, characterised in that the undercut part of the notch includes a restraining element which is intended to be received in a waist portion (52) located between two mutually sequential beads (51) in the string.

Claim 3 (original): A bib according to Claim 2, characterised in that the restraining element includes two separate parts (34) which are adapted to springily and yieldingly engage a respective waist portion, wherein said parts of the restraining element are spaced apart by a distance smaller than the diameter of a respective waist portion (52) and are located above the bottom of the notch (32) at a distance therefrom which is greater than the

radius of the beads, when the beads rest on the bottom of said notch.

Claim 4 (original): A bib according to Claim 1, characterised in that the restraining element (33) extends through more than 180 degrees around a respective waist portion (52).

Claim 5 (currently amended): A bib according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1—4~~, characterised in that the exposed surface of said body is hemispherical in shape.

Claim 6 (original): A bib according to Claim 1, characterised in that the extension of the hemispherical shape is somewhat greater than the outer diameter of the string.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A bib according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1—6~~, characterised in that the fastener notch is generally parallel with the nearby free-bearing free end portion (56) of the string.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A bib according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1—7~~, characterised in that the string is formed integrally with the front piece.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A bib according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1—7~~, characterised in that the string has an end portion that has been extruded onto and around the edge of the recess to surround the same.

Claim 10 (original): A bib according to Claim 9, characterised in that the part of the string extruded around the edge of the recess has the form of a bead string.